

MINUTES
CARLOS TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING
March 8, 2011

The Annual Carlos Township Meeting was held at the Carlos Town Hall. Dwayne Waldorf, Ted Steidl, Rodney Meyers, Rebecca Anderson and Dean Yohnke represented the Town Board. There were approximately 25 other citizens in attendance.

Clerk Rebecca Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM and led the group in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The board introduces themselves to the residents as there were a few new faces in the crowd. Nominations for Moderator were called for from the floor. Rod Meyers nominated Dwayne Waldorf. There being no other nominations, Ted Steidl moved to cease nominations with Dave Lamb seconding the motion. Rebecca Anderson seconded the motion to nominate Dwayne Waldorf as Moderator. On a voice vote, Dwayne Waldorf was unanimously chosen as Moderator.

Copies of the minutes from the last Annual Meeting held on March 9, 2010 had been distributed to the townspeople in attendance. Time had been allowed for reviewing them. Ray Bielke moved to approve the minutes as printed. Dave Lamb seconded the motion, and it carried on a unanimous vote.

GUESTS:

1. **Alexandria Area Economic Development Commission:** Kevin Kopischke addressed the group and highlighted several projects that AAEDC did this year with forecasting what can happen in the future. Costs for 2012 have been frozen and they are requesting the same amount for 2012 as they did in 2011 which is \$17,824. Betty Ricks asked why Carlos Township's rates were higher than other townships. Kevin explained the rates are based on per capita. Eric Theising asked if the City of Alexandria and Alexandria Township were included as he did not see their name on the summary sheet. Yes, they along with the City of Garfield and La Grand Township form the LAEDA which is a group in which the monies are legislated by the state. AAEDC does not need to go to them each year and make a request such as he is doing tonight. Dwayne Waldorf stated the county has been approached to levy these monies over all the properties of Douglas County, however, the county has been resistant to do that. The county already does levy a small amount to all the property owners. Ray Bielke asked for those of us in Carlos Township, are we being double dipped? Yes, as are other townships in the county. Denny Steen asked if it would be beneficial for the county to take this on. Yes, it would, however, the county commissioners are hesitant to move forward. Ray Bielke asked Kevin Kopischke if they require new businesses to have favorable wages. Kevin's response was they do not; however, the companies they choose to be eligible are above the mean. Ray Bielke asked if we could look into addressing companies that move their products by rail. Kevin could not say why companies have not thought of that as it is a useful tool.
2. **Lakes Area Recreation:** Fritz Bukowski represented the LAR. He went over the numbers for the past year and stated with the addition of the gymnastic program, they are not asking for an increase from 2011 which was \$6,318. Lakes Area Recreation is a joint powers/non profit organization which was

developed to include the City of Alexandria and School District 206. Seventy two (72) percent of revenue comes from user fees with the remaining 28% coming from cities and townships in Douglas County. They are celebrating their 20th year as Joint Powers. Fritz presented proposed public funding and the programs LAR provides. The addition of the gymnastic program which is held in the old Fingerhut building has added much additional revenue to the budget. Dean Yohnke had read an article in the Echo Press regarding this program and was wondering why Carlos Township was not included in the list of participants. Fritz explained this funding was provided by the City of Alexandria, Alexandria and La Grand Townships. These three entities have chosen to pay a higher rate per person, resulting in the additional funds for this program. Ray Bielke had asked last year if Fritz could look into adding a Firearm Shooting range to their list of programs. Fritz did look into it, however, do to the hazards of this activity along with archery, skydiving, rock climbing, wake boarding and waterskiing, the insurance is too expensive to justify adding these programs.

3. **Alexandria Fire Department:** There wasn't a representative from the Alexandria Fire Department. Moderator Waldorf reviewed the Alexandria Fire Department's request of \$22,439 up from \$17,197 for 2011. Rebecca Anderson went over the history of how the township came to levy for residents living in two fire districts.
4. **Carlos Fire Department:** Todd Whiting and Mike Trinka, representatives from the Carlos Fire Department were at the meeting. They are requesting \$32,780 for 2012, which is no increase from 2011. Todd did mention the cost may be going up in the future as they have a 6 year agreement with the School District on a piece of land on CR 13. The department is in year 2 of a 6 year plan - in which they need to show progress on building a new fire hall. If they do not have a plan within that time, the land will go back to the school district. The department will be applying for grants in the near future; however, they need to get a better idea on their costs. One number that came in was 1.8 million dollars. Rebecca Anderson asked, based on that one quote, if they knew how much more their request would increase? Todd said he didn't know, however Mike Trinka didn't think it would be much more than what's currently being requested. The County received an \$88,000 grant for radios and pagers, in which the department will have to pay 10% of that cost.
5. **Carlos First Responders:** Chris Hanson and Jason Thimmesh presented the Annual Report for the Carlos First Responders, noting their request of \$3,000 has been the same for the past few years. He stated that three recruits have just finished training and he recruited one more person tonight. The cost of training per responder is \$400 with an additional cost of \$150.00 every two years for recertification. Rebecca Anderson asked how many responders were available. Chris stated he has eight full time and one part time responders. Six live in Alex and two live in Carlos, so that can be an issue at times. Moderator Waldorf asked how many he would like to see and Chris stated he is good with eight. The responders are very proud of what they do, as not everyone can do it. It can be gruesome and the hours can be difficult as they are available 24/7. All responders pay for their own gas to and from accidents and are dispatched at the same time the ambulance is called. This is strictly voluntary and they work with each other to keep everyone informed of vacation days, etc.

Moderator Waldorf then asked for motions on the following levy requests:

AAEDC: Dave Lamb moved to approve the request to AAEDC in the amount of \$17,824. Todd Whiting seconded the motion and it carried.

Lakes Area Recreation: Rebecca Anderson moved to approve the request for LAR in the amount of \$6,318. Denny Steen seconded the motion and it carried.

Alexandria Fire Department: Denny Steen made a motion to levy for the amount requested in 2011, \$17,197. Moderator Waldorf would like to see that motion come from a resident that is being served and charged for that levy. After a little more discussion, Ted Steidl felt there should not be any discussion as there had not been a second to the motion. Moderator Waldorf stood corrected. Ray Bielke seconded the motion to deny the original request and to levy for the 2011 request. Betty Ricks who is one of those residents asked if their taxes would go up if this increase levy was approved, and the answer was yes. Eric Theising felt the Alex Fire department needed to keep a base amount in the Fireman's Retirement Fund and that is one of reasons for the increase. Mike Trinka had heard there were quite a few fireman that had recently retired. On a voice vote, the motion to deny the request and levy for the 2011 for the amount of \$17,197 was approved non unanimously.

Carlos Fire Department: Mike Maudal moved to approve the request of \$32,780, Norma Steidl seconded the motion and it carried.

Carlos First Responders: Norma Steidl moved to approve the request of \$3,000. Denny Steen seconded the motion and it carried.

Treasurer Dean Yohnke presented the townspeople with the Treasurer/Clerk's Report for 2010. Mike Maudal asked why some of the accounts had a negative balance? Dean explained this would be due to delinquent taxes. He asked if the township knew how much the township was delinquent, and the board said they did not know, however, we could get that information from the county auditor

Dean Yohnke presented the Three Year comparison of costs for the township. Ray Bielke asked who performs brushing for the township. Currently the road maintainer is doing this; however, it is not in his contract. Therefore, the township has the flexibility to obtain quotes. Ted Steidl explained that spraying for weeds and brush can get difficult as there tends to be overspray that will kill viable plants.

Mike Maudal moved to accept the Treasurer/Clerk's report as presented. Bev Bales seconded the motion and it carried.

Commissioner Bev Bales: Bev addressed the group and updated us on activity with the county. The county has frozen all wages to keep costs down; they have not replaced some positions in which someone has retired. The county looks to lose \$600,000 in LGA this year. The hospital construction is self supporting and did not require any taxpayer dollars. The commissioners kept an ever watchful eye on the new jail expenditures and has come under budget by \$2,000,000. Zebra Mussels are a huge problem as they have been reported in some areas of Le Homme Dieu. She is in charge of the Yellow Ribbon program, which assists veterans and family of veterans with any requests. Those requests can be from

blowing snow out of a driveway to fixing an appliance, she is hoping that many people will offer whatever they can do to assist with our veterans.

Moderator Waldorf thanked the county commissions for holding the budget in line for all the residents of the county.

New Business:

Moderator Waldorf went over the Property Tax Levy request for 2012.

GENERAL FUND: Ray Bielke asked with the ending balance looking healthy, why ask for \$30,000. He would like to see this lowered. Rebecca Anderson stated you never know when an unexpected bill will come up, such as the CLRSD allotment in 2009. The township had the money to pay for this upfront, versus having to bond and pay interest on that bond. Mike Maudal felt is good to have extra money for a rainy day. Eric Theising moved to levy \$30,000 for the General Fund. Mike Maudal seconded the motion and it carried.

ROAD & BRIDGE: After much discussion on upcoming road projects/costs/signs i.e. Sandhill Lane, Woodsmen, brushing, Bev Bales moved to levy \$350,000. Denny Steen seconded the motion and it carried.

DEPOSITORY: Rod Meyers moved to continue using First State Bank of Carlos as depository for Township funds. Betty Ricks seconded the motion and it carried.

POSTING PLACES: Bev Bales moved to keep posting notices at the Town Hall, Gas Mart, Three Havens Market, and the Carlos Township Website; www.carlostownship.org. Norma Steidl seconded the motion and it carried.

NEWSPAPER: Denny Steen motioned to continue using the Echo Press as the official newspaper. Norma Steidl seconded the motion and it carried.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT ANNUAL TOWNSHIP ELECTION: Ray Bielke moved to hold the next Township Election on the second Tuesday in March from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM at the Carlos Town Hall. Ted Steidl seconded the motion and it carried.

TIME AND PLACE FOR NEXT ANNUAL MEETING: Dave Lamb moved to hold the next Annual Meeting at the Carlos Town Hall at 8:00 PM following the township election. Norma Steidl seconded the motion; carried.

CALCIUM CHLORIDE APPLICATION: The Township will continue to pay for this application for the township residents. The board is looking to Alden Just to present them with a quote as we would like to keep the business local. The past few years, the township has been working through the county to have is applied. Denny Steen moved to leave the application to the discretion of the board. Dave Lamb seconded the motion and it carried.

GOPHER BOUNTY: Denny Steen moved to keep the pocket gopher bounty at \$2.50 and striped at \$0.50. Eric Theising seconded the motion and it carried.

Eric Theising asked if a motion was required for the CLRSD levy. Rebecca Anderson stated no, as this clause was passed by the legislature when this issue came to light.

Denny Steen asked if we ever paid Eileen Bachmann the \$1,000 she requested 3 years ago and if we know if the money was applied to that project. Yes she was given the money and no, we have not received a report back from her. Going forward, any special fund requests, the board will ask for a report.

UN-OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS: There were 40 votes cast: Rodney Meyers won re-election for the 3-year supervisor position with 39 of the 40 cast. Bill Krivanek received one write in vote. Dean Yohnke won re-election for treasurer with all 40 votes. The official ballot results are on file with the clerk.

ROAD MAINTENANCE: Alden Just is the new road maintainer as he came in with the lowest bid last August. Moderator Waldorf felt he was going to be at the meeting tonight, however, he was not there. The board is overall content with the work he is doing, however, there have been a few rough times, with icy roads or snow being plowed the wrong direction. Bev Bales noted we have had a very unusual winter with more icy rain than snow. Not only were our township roads in tough shape, but all the roads in the county, even the state highways. Rebecca noted that with any new job, there is a learning curve. When he is called to add more sand or perform additional plowing he gets right on it. Bev felt he was doing a very good job.

DOG PROBLEMS: There are no problems to report. Moderator Waldorf stated the township is spending a fraction of the cost Alexandria and La Grand Townships are paying for animal control. It was mentioned that each of them are paying approximately \$2,000 a month which does include cats.

SPRAYING OF WEEDS: The Board is looking to spend more money on weeds and brush as the ROW is getting a out of control. Alden Just is certified to spray; therefore, the board will be working with him.

SANITARY SEWER PROJECTS: Moderator Waldorf indicated the only project in the works now is for the residents of South Lake Milona. The township was awarded a \$33,000 grant for the study of the former CLRSD area. This study will let those property owners know what they can do for their upcoming sewer needs. These residents were in favor of the CLRSD; therefore, they are in need for this study. Dwayne Waldorf had checked with ALASD to see if they had been contacted by the study group, and they had not. With that said, Bruce Nelson did not see it viable for ALASD to run pipe out to this short list of property owners. Another reason, is this area is used primarily for summer guests and there would be a lack of flow during the off season months, which would create a problem. Denny Steen asked if land had been purchased for the CLRSD and how that all panned out. Ted Steidl stated easements had been purchased and he suggested they get the money back. He was scoffed at ~~by~~ by the property owners and said there was no way; they could legally get the money back. The property that was purchased for the plant in Belle River Township was given to the State.

Move March Election to November: Moderator Waldorf felt it tied in to read a comment that was in the suggestion box regarding this issue. The writer suggested it would be beneficial to move the elections to March to get more voter turnout and save money. Rebecca Anderson had contacted the Minnesota Township Association to find out what was the process for moving elections to November. The townspeople would have to vote to have the question placed on the ballot at the next March election. If it was voted in, terms for supervisors would go from 3 to 6 years and terms for clerks and treasurers would go from 2 for 4 years. The reason being there would only be elections held every even year at the same time as state and federal elections. The average cost for each township election is approximately \$500 per year. Ted Steidl opposes the idea as he feels the second Tuesday in March is Election Day for Townships – it is special. Dave Lamb agreed that getting someone to serve for 6 years is a long time. Therefore Ray Bielke moved to not move the Carlos Township election from March to November. Dave Lamb seconded the motion and it carried.

FROM THE FLOOR: Rebecca Anderson noted that at last year's annual meeting, Ann Schwickerath asked about the township looking into getting a website. She was happy to report, the township launched it's website in May of last year.

COMMENT BOX: There was a second comment in the box asking "To try a Thursday". The board felt this request suggested the election should be held on a Thursday. By Minnesota Statute, the annual meeting/election has to be held on the the second Tuesday in the month of March. In case of a snow/or other emergency, the election and annual meeting would be postponed to the third Tuesday.

OTHER COMMENTS: Denny Steen thanked the board for all their efforts and appreciated there is someone to perform this work. Moderator Waldorf stated Carlos Township is very close in size to Alexandria and La Grande Township, yet our budget is much lower than theirs. He feels we do a very good job of working under that budget to provide services for its residents.

There being no further business to come before the group, a motion was made by Norma Steidl and seconded by Todd Whiting to adjourn the meeting; motion carried;

**MINUTES
BOARD OF CANVASS
March 8, 2011**

The Board of Canvass was called to order with the following members in attendance: Dwayne Waldorf, Ted Steidl Rodney Meyers, Dean Yohnke and Rebecca Anderson. The Board reviewed the un-official election results. A motion was made by Ted Steidl and seconded by Dwayne Waldorf to declare the election results official. The motion carried. There being no further business to come before this Board, Ted Steidl moved to adjourn the meeting. Rod Meyers seconded the motion and it carried.

Moderator *Dwayne Waldorf* Clerk *Rebecca Anderson*